

CLAIMS

1. System for selecting (1) an item in a list (L1, L2, L3) of items, the system (1) comprising:
- providing means (11) for repeatedly providing a first display sub-list (SL1) of items of the list (L1, L2, L3) of items for displaying on a screen (2),
5 - display controlling means (12) for controlling an orderly displaying on the screen (2) of the items of the first sub-list (SL1), adjacent to each other on the screen (2) in a first scrolling zone (SZ1),
- scrolling means (13) for scrolling at least partly the list (L1, L2, L3) of items on the screen (2), by repeatedly modifying the items of the first sub-list (SL1) through cancelling firstly
10 introduced items in the first sub-list (SL1) and introducing new items from the list (L1, L2, L3) of items into the first sub-list (SL1),
- and selecting means (14) for enabling a user to select at least one of the items of the first sub-list (SL1) displayed in a selection area (20) of the screen (2),
characterised in that:
15 - the providing means (11) for providing the first sub-list (SL1) provide simultaneously at least a second sub-list (SL2) of items,
- the display controlling means (12) display simultaneously on the screen (2) at least some of the items of all of the first and second sub-lists (SL1, SL2) in respective first and second scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2),
20 - the scrolling means (13) scroll at least partly the list (L1, L2, L3) in the first and second scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2),
- and the selecting means (14) enable a user to select an item displayed in the selection area (20) of at least one of the first and second scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2).
2. Selecting system (1) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the selecting system (1) further comprises choosing means (16) for choosing at least one of the scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2) as elected scrolling zone, wherein only in the elected scrolling zone one of the
25 displayed items can be selected, and the selecting means (14) select the item displayed in the selection area (20) only for the elected scrolling zone.
3. Selecting system (1) according to claim 2, **characterised in that** the scrolling means (13) use at least one lower speed for the elected scrolling zone and at least one faster speed
30 for the not elected scrolling zone.

4. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the scrolling means (13) automatically scroll the items of the list (L1, L2, L3) at different speeds depending on the sub-lists (SL1, SL2).
- 5 5. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the selecting system (1) comprises means for reversing (17) the scrolling direction of the first or second scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2).
6. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the display controlling means (12) use adjacent parallel scrolling bars as the scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2).
- 10 7. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the providing means (11) use the same items of the list (L1, L2, L3) for all sub-lists (SL1, SL2).
8. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the providing means (11) use complementary items of the list (L1, L2, L3) for the respective
15 sub-lists (SL1, SL2).
9. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the providing means (11) provide one or more items of at least one of the sub-lists (SL1, SL2) with various frequencies of occurrences.
10. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the
20 selecting system (1) comprises representation means (18) for giving to a user a further representation corresponding to the content of at least one item displayed in the selection area (20).
11. Selecting system (1) according to any of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the
25 list (L1, L2, L3) of items being a first level list (L1) of first level items, the selecting system (1) is intended for first selecting one of the first level items in the first list (L1), and for afterwards selecting at least one second level item in at least one second level list (L2) of items likewise, the selecting system further comprising means for specifying the second level list (L2) in function of the selected first level item.
12. Interactive electronic program guide assembly, **characterised in that** it comprises a
30 selecting system (1) in compliance with any of claims 1 to 11, the selecting system (1)

being preferably intended for selecting at least one of a station name and/or a program title in respectively a list of station names and/or a list of program titles.

13. Broadcast receiver (6), including one of the list of interactive set-top box and interactive television, **characterised in that** it comprises an interactive electronic program guide assembly in compliance with claim 12.

14. File retrieval assembly (7) comprising a selecting system (1) in compliance with any of the preceding claims 1 to 11.

15. File retrieval assembly according to claim 14, **characterised in that** the files are music files with associated information items including at least one of the list of name of interpreter, an album and a title in respectively lists of interpreters, albums and titles.

16. Remote control (31, 32, 33), **characterised in that** it comprises remote control means (41-49) for remotely controlling a selecting system (1) in compliance with any of claims 1 to 11, the remote control means (41-49) including a single selection key (45, 48, 49) enabling a user with the single key to trigger the providing means (11), the display controlling means (12) and the scrolling means (13) together, and to select the at least one item displayed in the selection area (20) of the screen (2) by triggering the selecting means (14).

17. Remote control (33) according to claim 15, **characterised in that** the selection key (49) is also designed to enable a user to choose the elected scrolling zone.

18. Method for selecting an item in a list (L1, L2, L3) of items, the method including the steps of:

- providing a first sub-list (SL1) of items out of a first list (L1) of items for displaying on a screen (2),
 - controlling an orderly displaying of the items of the first sub-list (SL1) adjacent to each other on the screen (2) in a first scrolling zone (SZ1),
 - scrolling at least partly the first list (L1) of items on the screen (2) by repeatedly modifying the items of the first sub-list (SL1) through cancelling firstly introduced items in the first sub-list (SL1) and introducing new items from the first list (L1) of items into the first sub-list (SL1),
 - presenting a selection area (20) within the scrolling zone (SZ1),
 - accepting a user input as a selection command to select at least one of the items of the first sub-list (SL1) being displayed in the selection area (20),
- characterised in that** the method further includes the steps of:

- providing simultaneously with the first sub-list (SL1) at least one second sub-list (SL2) of items,
- displaying simultaneously on the screen (2) the ordered items for the first and the at least one second sub-lists (SL1, SL2) in respective first and second scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2),
- scrolling at least partly the first list (L1) in the various scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2),
- accepting a user input as a selection command to select at least one of the items of the second sub-list (SL2) being displayed in the selection area (20).

19. The method of claim 18, **characterised in that** the displaying step includes displaying each scrolling zone with respective different, contrasting colours for foreground and background.

20. The method of claim 18 or 19, **characterised in that** the method further includes the step of accepting a user input for choosing an elected scrolling zone from the first or second scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2), wherein the selection command of claim 18 is accepted only for the elected scrolling zone.

21. The method of claim 20, **characterised in that** the user input for choosing the elected scrolling zone and the selection command are identical, wherein the duration of the user input is used to distinguish between determining the active sub-list and selecting an item.

22. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 21, further including the step of highlighting the item in the selection area (20).

23. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 22, **characterised in that** the items in the first and second scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2) are displayed a first and a second scrolling speed.

24. The method of claim 23, **characterised in that** the elected scrolling zone is scrolled at a lower speed than the not elected scrolling zone.

25. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 24, **characterised in that** the scrolling direction and/or the scrolling speed of one or more of the scrolling zones (SZ1, SZ2) are reversed and/or altered, respectively, upon a user input.

26. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 25, **characterised in that** the order of the items in the first and/or second sub-list is adapted depending on the preceding user selections.

27. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 26, **characterised in that** items of the first and/or second sub-list (SL1, SL2) are reproduced several times in the respective scrolling zone (SZ1, SZ2) during one complete run of all items of the respective sub-list.
- 5 28. The method of claim 27, **characterised in that** the frequency of occurrence of identical items in the first or second sub-list (SL1, SL2) is dependent of preceding user selections.
29. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 28, **characterised in that** at least some of the items out of the first list (L1) that are displayed in the first and/or second sub-list (SL1, SL2) are deleted or replaced by items out of a second list (L2, L3), depending on the preceding user selections.
- 10 30. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 29, **characterised in that** the items of the second sub-list (SL2) are a subset of the items of the first sub-list (SL1).
31. The method of claim 30, **characterised in that** the subset of items is determined depending on prior user selections.
- 15 32. The method of claim 30 or 31, **characterised in that**, for determining the subset, the frequency and/or time of prior user selections of individual items are/is monitored.
33. The method of claim 32, **characterised in that**, for determining the subset, the duration of the monitoring period is predetermined or user-selectable, wherein the start of the monitoring period may be initiated at a predetermined instant, depending on user interaction or recurrently so as to form a floating monitoring window.
- 20 34. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 33, **characterised in that** the item in the selection area (20) and/or the selected item, or the content any of it relates to, is reproduced in an additional area (A1, A2, 25) on the screen (2).
35. The method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 34, **characterised in that** the selection area (20) is displaced in or against the scrolling direction upon a user input.
- 25 36. The method of any of the preceding claims 18 to 35, **characterised in that** at least one of the items of the first list of items (L1) is linked with at least one item in a second list of items (L2, L3), wherein selection of a linked item of the first list of items (L1) effects displaying one or all linked item or items of the second list of items (L2, L3) in the first or second scrolling zone (SZ1, SZ2).

37. The method of claim 36, **characterised in that**, after selecting an item of the first list of items (L1) in the selection area (20), the first and/or second scrolling zone (SZ1, SZ2) show only items of the second list of items (L2, L3) that are linked with the previously selected item of the first list of items (L1).
- 5 38. Computer program product comprising program code instructions for executing the steps of the method of any one of the preceding claims 18 to 37 when the program is executed on a computer.